

## Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O R 231230Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION BERLIN UNN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 00008

EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y FOR MRN 00008 VICE 01925

FOR EUR AMBASSADOR COOPER, SCOTT GEORGE, JOAN CLARK

BONN FOR AMBASSADOR HILLENBRAND

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ABLD, AFSP, GE, PDIC

SUBJECT: OPENING OF EMBASSY AND ARRIVAL OF AMBASSADOR

1. SUMMARY: A REVIEW OF OFFICE FACILITIES AND LODGING ARRANGEMENTS FOR AMBASSADOR COOPER SUGGESTS THAT (A) WORK ON THE NORDENDSTRASSE PERMANENT RESIDENCE WILL TAKE AT LEAST UNTIL MAY, AND PROBABLY MUCH LONGER TO COMPLETE; (B) THE PLANNED TEMPORARY AMBASSADORIAL RESIDENCE IS THEREFORE INADEQUATE; (C) AMBASSADOR COOPER MAY CONSEQUENTLY WISH TO CONSIDER POSTPONING HIS ARRIVAL IN BERLIN; AND (D) WE SHOULD PLAN TO OPEN EMBASSIES IN WASHINGTON AND BERLIN LATER IN NOVEMBER. END SUMMARY.

2. WITH THE COOPERATION OF THE GDR DIPLOMATIC SERVICES OFFICE (DLA), I HAD A LOOK ON OCTOBER 22 AT THE EXTERIOR OF WHAT IS TO BE THE PERMANENT AMBASSADORIAL RESIDENCE IN THE NORDENSTRASSE, AT THE HOUSE IN THE HEINRICH-MANN-STRASSE PROPOSED AS THE TEMPORARY RESIDENCE FOR AMBASSADOR COOPER, AND AT THE OUTSIDE OF OUR TEMPORARY RESIDENCE FOR AMBASSADOR COOPER, AND AT THE OUTSIDE OF OUR TEMPORARY OFFICE SPACE IN THE SCHADOWSTRASSE. I WAS ACCOMPANIED BY SEVERAL  
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MEMBERS OF THE EMBASSY STAFF. FOLLOWING ARE MY OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

3. AMBASSADOR'S PERMANENT RESIDENCE

AS NOTED, I HAVE ONLY SEEN THE EXTERIOR OF THIS PROPERTY, BUT HAVE ARRANGED WITH THE DLA TO LOOK AT THE INSIDE ON OCTOBER 24. ON THE ONE HAND, THE RESIDENCE REMAINS FULLY OCCUPIED AND THE GROUNDS HAVE NOT BEEN TENDED. ON THE OTHER, LOEFFLER OF THE DLA HAS TOLD ME THAT UNTIL HE RECEIVES MORE SPECIFIC GUIDANCE FROM BFO ON THE CHANGES WE DESIRE, HIS PEOPLE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO BEGIN ALTERING THIS STRUCTURE TO OUR NEEDS. HE EMPHASIZED THAT WEATHER CONDITIONS MADE WINTER AND EARLY SPRING A DIFFICULT TIME FOR CONSTRUCTION WORK, AND DECLARED HIMSELF UNABLE TO PROJECT A TIME PERIOD FOR THE COMPLETION OF RENOVATION. SINCE NOTHING HAS BEEN DONE TO DATE, AND A LEASE HAS NOT YET BEEN SIGNED, I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT WORK CAN BE COMPLETED BEFORE MAY OF 1975 AT THE EARLIEST, AND IT IS MUCH MORE LIKELY THAT WE WILL BE INTO THE SUMMER OR EVEN BEYOND BEFORE THE RESIDENCE IS READY FOR OCCUPANCY.

(FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL GEYER'S ESTIMATE IN SEPTEMBER THAT THIS PROPERTY WOULD BE READY "IN THREE MONTHS" WAS OFF THE MARK.)

4. IN LIGHT OF THE ABOVE, TEMPORARY RESIDENCE ACCOMMODATIONS FOR AMBASSADOR AND MRS. COOPER SHOULD BE PLANNED FOR A PERIOD THAT WILL LAST WELL INTO NEXT YEAR.

#### 5. THE AMBASSADOR'S TEMPORARY RESIDENCE

ON CLOSE INSPECTION, THE HEINRICH-MANN-STRASS RESIDENCE PRESENTS STRUCTURAL PROBLEMS OF SUCH MAGNITUDE THAT IN MY JUDGMENT THIS WILL NOT BE SUITABLE AS A TEMPORARY HOME FOR AMBASSADOR AND MRS. COOPER FOR WHAT NOW APPEARS TO BE A LONGER PERIOD THAN PREVIOUSLY ANTICIPATED. THE BASIC PROBLEMS ARE THESE:

(A) THE KITCHEN, WHICH WILL HAVE AN ESTIMATED OPEN SPACE OF THREE FEET BY TEN FEET, CANNOT SERVE FOR THE PREPARATION OF A FORMAL MEAL FOR MORE THAN A HANDFUL OF CONFIDENTIAL

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PERSONS. IT IS ALREADY CROWDED BY TWO APARTMENT-SIZED RANGES (AN ELECTRIC STOVE WITH THREE SMALL BURNERS AND A GAS STOVE WITH FOUR SMALL BURNERS) PERFORCE PLACED AT RIGHT ANGLES IN SUCH FASHION THAT THE OVEN DOORS CANNOT BE OPENED AT THE SAME TIME. THE SINK SPACE IS EXTREMELY SMALL. THERE IS VIRTUALLY NO STORAGE SPACE FOR FOOD. THERE IS NOT STORAGE SPACE FOR DISHES, GLASSES, SILVERWARE, ETC. THERE IS NO WORK AREA, DUE TO SPACE LIMITATIONS, AND NO POSSIBILITY OF CREATING A WORK AREA. IT WOULD THUS BE DIFFICULT TO PREPARE AND SERVE A FORMAL DINNER FOR 12 FROM THIS SPACE. IT WOULD BE AN ORDEAL TO DO MORE.

(B) ON THE GROUND FLOOR THERE IS NO "GUEST BATHROOM." THE ONE BATHROOM IS UNGAINLY AND INCLUDES

A BATHTUB. THIS PROVIDES THE ONLY WASHROOM FACILITIES FOR GUESTS. (IT SHOULD ALSO BE NOTED THAT THERE IS NO CLOAK ROOM ON THE GROUND FLOOR. THERE ARE NO BUILT-IN CLOSETS ANYWHERE IN THE HOUSE.) ON THE SECOND FLOOR THERE ARE TWO BATHROOMS, ONLY ONE OF WHICH HAS A TOILET. THE MASTER BATHROOM. IN ADDITION TO THE TOILET, HAS A SINK AND A TUB WITH UNFIXED SHOWER HANDLE. THE OTHER BATHROOM IS SMALL AND CONTAINS ONLY A SINK AND SHOWER STALL. ALTHOUGH THE THIRD FLOOR HAS FIVE BEDROOMS SUITABLE FOR CHILDREN OR SERVANTS, IT HAS ONLY ONE BATHROOM.

(C) A REVIEW OF FLOOR PLANS AVAILABLE IN THE DEPARTMENT WILL INDICATE THE AWKWARDNESS OF THE ARRANGEMENT OF ROOMS ON ALL FLOORS. ANY CONFIGURATION OF LIVING AND DINING AREAS LEAVES ONE OR THE OTHER INADEQUATE FOR ENTERTAINING.

(D) THERE ARE OTHER DIFFICULTIES WITH THIS PROPERTY SUCH AS THE STREET NOISE OF BUS AND TRUCK TRAFFIC.

(E) FOR THESE REASONS, IT IS MY CONSIDERED JUDGMENT THAT THIS RESIDENCE IS CLEARLY NOT CAPABLE OF SUSTAINING ANY SIZEABLE REPRESENTATIONAL ACTIVITY. MAJOR STRUCTURAL CHANGES (SEE BELOW) MIGHT ALTER THIS ASSESSMENT. THIS PROPERTY OF COURSE REMAINS SUITABLE FOR A SENIOR EMBASSY OFFICER WITHOUT HEAVY REPRESENTATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES.

6. THERE ARE AT THIS MOMENT AT LEAST TWO OTHER OPTIONS FOR PROVIDING A TEMPORARY RESIDENCE. ONE LIES IN IMPROVEMENTS THAT MIGHT BE MADE IN THE HEINRICH-MANN-CONFIDENTIAL

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STRASSE PROPERTY. BRIEFLY, THESE WOULD INVOLVE CONVERTING THE ROOM FACING THE BACK GARDEN INTO A KITCHEN, USING THE PRESENT KITCHEN AS A BUTLER'S PARTY. THE SMALL ROOM IMMEDIATELY TO THE LEFT UPON ENTERING THE HOUSE ON THE GROUND FLOOR COULD BE MADE INTO A COMBINATION CLOAK ROOM AND STORAGE AREA. UPSTAIRS, THE ROOM ABOVE THE NEW KITCHEN COULD BE REDESIGNED TO INCLUDE A WASHROOM AND TOILET. COSTS COULD POSSIBLY BE BORNE BY THE DLA, TO BE REFLECTED IN A RENT INCREASE. WE HAVE NOT RAISED THIS POSSIBILITY WITH THE GDR. A SECOND OPTION LIES IN THE EXPLORATION OF OTHER PROPERTIES. I WILL BE LOOKING INTO THIS ON OCTOBER 24. ONE POSSIBILITY MIGHT BE TO RENT A REPRESENTATIONAL HOME BELONGING TO FELSSENSTEIN OF THE KOMISCHE OPER, A MATTER I AM DISCREETLY EXPLORING.

7. OPENING THE EMBASSY

DLA HEAD LOEFFLER REPEATED TO ME ON OCTOBER 22 (AND I SUSPECT HE IS CORRECT) THAT THE SCHADOWSTRASSE TEMPORARY CHANCERY WILL BE READY FOR OCCUPANCY ON NOVEMBER FIRST. WE SHOULD THUS BE ABLE TO SIGN THE TRANSFER/ACCEPTANCE

FORM ON THAT DATE, AND SHOULD PLAN TO OPEN  
AS SOON AS IT POSSIBLY THEATER. THE EXPERIENCE  
OF OTHERS HERE SHOWS THAT THE EAST GERMAN GOVERNMENT EXPECTS  
AN EMBASSY TO BE FULLY OPERATIONAL WHEN IT OPENS FOR BUSINESS.  
I BELIEVE IT WILL TAKE ABOUT THREE WEEKS TO SETTLE IN,  
AND THAT WE WILL HAVE THE FACILITIES AND PERSONNEL IN PLACE  
TO OPEN IN THE LATTER PART OF NOVEMBER. IN  
MY CONVERSATIONS WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S DEPUTY CHIEF  
OF PROTOCOL AND CHIEF OF THE NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION,  
AND WITH LOEFFLER, I HAVE MENTIONED THAT THE NOVEMBER FIRST  
TARGET DATE FOR OPENING THE EMBASSY IS SUBJECT TO CERTAIN  
PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS. THEY EXPRESSED THEIR UNDER-  
STANDING, AND GEYER NOTED IN A MATTER OF FACT WAS THAT  
ON THE BASIS OF RECIPROCITY THIS WOULD ALSO ENTAIL  
DELAY FOR THE EAST GERMANS IN WASHINGTON.

#### 8. RECOMMENDATIONS

(A) THE AMBASSADOR'S TEMPORARY RESIDENCE  
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THE DEPARTMENT SHOULD SEEK AMBASSADOR COOPER'S  
VIEWS CONCERNING THE HEINRICH-MANN-STRASSE PROPERTY.  
IF THE IMPROVEMENTS PROPOSED IN PARA 6 ARE ACCEPTABLE  
TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR A PERIOD OF SEVERAL MONTHS AS A  
TEMPORARY AMBASSADORIAL RESIDENCE. WITHOUT THESE  
IMPROVEMENTS I BELIEVE THE AMBASSADOR WOULD BE ILL  
ADVISED TO MOVE IN. ANY FURTHER JUDGMENT ON TEMPORARY  
QUARTERS FOR THE AMBASSADOR SHOULD AWAIT THE OUTCOME OF  
MY NEXT MEETING WITH THE DLA ON OCTOBER 24.

#### (B) AMBASSADOR'S ARRIVAL

IN VIEW OF THE ABOVE, I RELUCTANTLY CONCLUDE  
THAT AMBASSADOR AND MRS. COOPER MAY WISH TO CONSIDER DELAYING  
THEIR ARRIVAL IN BERLIN, ALONG WITH THAT OF SERVANTS AND  
PETS, UNTIL WE CAN SORT THESE MATTERS OUT.

#### (C) OPENING THE EMBASSY

I REQUEST APPROVAL TO OPEN OUR EMBASSY IN THE  
LATTER PART OF NOVEMBER, OTHER FACTORS BEING EQUAL. I EXPECT  
THAT WE WILL BE SUITABLY INSTALLED BY THEN, AND THAT  
A MINIMUM EMBASSY STAFF WILL BE PREPARED TO TAKE ON A  
NORMAL WORKLOAD.

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SPC-03 AID-20 EB-11 NSC-10 RSC-01

CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-20 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 DRC-01 COME-00 SCEM-02 SCI-06 FRB-02

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FM USMISSION BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2789

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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DOWN FROM 1973'S PLANNED 9 PERCENT AND REALIZED  
7.5 PERCENT. (PRESSURE ON INVESTMENT FUNDS  
STEMS IN PART FROM FIRST GDR SEPARATE PLAN,  
BASED ON SOVIET MODEL, ALLOCATING MARKS 500  
MILLION TO CEMA JOINT PROJECTS.) EXCLUDING  
AMBITIOUS INVESTMENTS SLATED FOR RESIDENTIAL  
CONSTRUCTION AND AGRICULTURAL (MARKS 5.7 BILLION)  
SECTORS, INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENTS ARE TO GROW BY  
ONLY 3.2 PERCENT, DOWN SHARPLY FROM 13 PERCENT  
RISE PLANNED FOR 1973. ENERGY SECTOR IS TO GET  
FULLY 60 PERCENT OF THIS SUB-GLOBAL FIGURE. THIS  
ALLOCATION OF SCARECE RESOURCES REFLECTS REGIME'S

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REALIZATION THAT ECONOMY'S DEVELOPMENT WILL BE  
SHARPLY LIMITED UNLESS CHRONICALLY OVER-EXTENDED  
ENERGY SECTOR RECEIVES PRIORITY ATTENTION.  
AGRICULTURE, PARTICULARLY TECHNOLOGICAL AND  
INDUSTRIAL ASPECTS SUCH AS CONVERSION OF PLANT  
INTO ANIMAL PROTEIN, IS BEING EMPHASIZED IN  
EXPECTATION THAT IT CAN CONTRIBUTE TO FURTHER  
EXPORT GROWTH, AS IT ALREADY HAS DONE IN IGT.  
INVESTMENT IN RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION, ADMITTEDLY  
A LONG-RANGE UNDERTAKING, IS INTENDED TO RECTIFY  
PAST NEGLECT OF THIS SECTOR AND "SOLVE"  
GDR'S MAJOR HOUSING SHORTAGE BY 1990. IMPACT OF  
REDUCED INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENTS WILL, OF COURSE,

BE FULLY PERCEIVED ONLY AFTER 1974 AND PROBABLY  
TEND TO REDUCE ABILITY OF ECONOMY TO MEET  
EXPANDED INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL DEMAND.

6 ABILITY OF GDR TO SUSTAIN 1973 LEVEL OF  
ECONOMIC GROWTH INTO 1974 WILL DEPEND SIGNIFI-  
CANTLY ON DELIVERY OF CONTRACTED SUPPLIES OF  
RAW MATERIALS FROM ITS CEMA PARTNERS AND CONTINUED  
WILLINGNESS OF WEST TO UNDERWRITE ADDITIONAL EAST  
GERMAN FOREIGN TRADE DEFICITS, AND CHANCES ON  
BOTH COUNTS ARE BETTER THAN EVEN. LESS CERTAIN,  
AND OF PRIME IMPORT, IS ABILITY OF EAST GERMAN  
PLANNERS TO EXTRACT FROM AVAILABLE RESOURCES AND  
ECONOMIC APPARATUS INCREMENTAL PRODUCTION NEEDED  
TO MEET PLAN GOALS. ONE-THIRD OF INCREASE IS TO  
BE DERIVED FROM 210 NEW INDUSTRIAL PLANTS SCHEDULED  
TO COME ONTO LINE. BALANCE IS TO COME FROM  
MODERNIZATION OF EXISTING FACILITIES, MORE EFFICIENT  
USE OF MATERIALS AND HIGHER LABOR PRODUCTIVITY.  
PROVIDED THAT NO EXTRAORDINARY DIFFICULTIES, E.G.  
WEATHER, AGRICULTURE, SUPPLIES, ETC. INTERVENE,  
EAST GERMANS SEEM TO STAND REASONABLY GOOD CHANCE  
OF APPROACHING OBJECTIVES OF A PLAN WHICH ON BALANCE  
DOES NOT APPEAR UNDULY AMBITIOUS.  
KLEIN

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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** ABLD, AFSP, PDIP, CG, GE, US  
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